



# Continuous Picot Quilt Binding and More

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Resource:

**'Happy Endings: Finishing the Edges of Your Quilt'**

Revised edition

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Handout includes instructions from pgs 20-23, 25-28, 35-37, 63-67, 75-76.

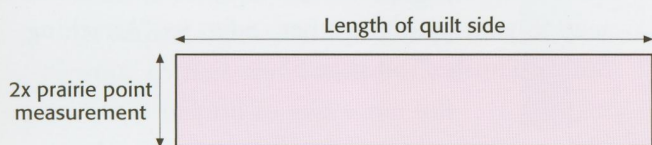
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## Continuous Prairie Points

A quick way to add prairie points is to make a continuous strip of them that fits the edge of your quilt. To fit the edges of the quilt accurately, you must be able to divide the side of your quilt equally by the size of the prairie points. In the following step-by-step instructions, we'll use 3" prairie points as an example, but you can adjust the size of the cut prairie points to 2½" or 3½" if that works better for your quilt size.

1. Cut strips twice as wide as the finished measurement of the prairie point. For 3" points, you'd cut 6"-wide strips.

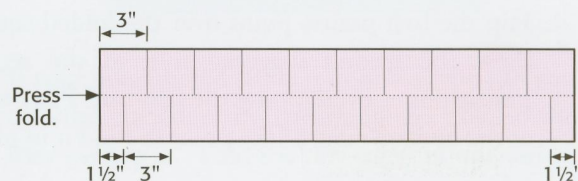


2. To determine the length of the strips, measure the edges of your quilt. For a small quilt, cut individual strips of fabric the length of each side. For a large quilt, cut multiple strips that add up to the total length of the quilt, keeping in mind that you'll overlap the individual strips later on as you pin them to the quilt edge.

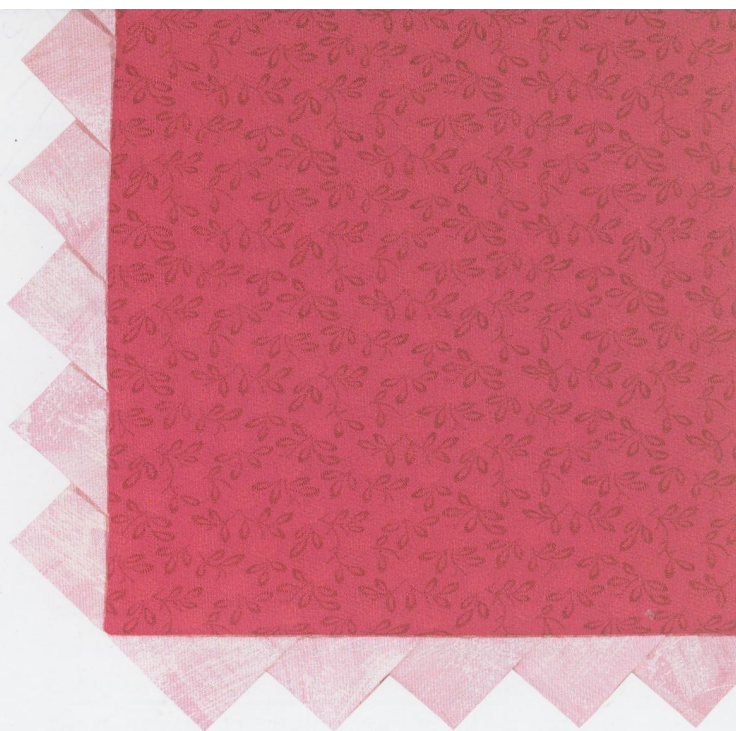
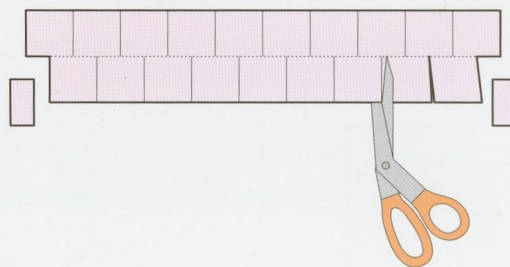
## Happy Endings Hint

If the edge of your quilt can't be divided equally by the size of the prairie points, you may be able to trim the border of your quilt slightly to accommodate the prairie points. On a large quilt, you can adjust segments as you overlap them to fit the length of each quilt side.

3. Press the strip in half lengthwise, wrong sides together, to mark the vertical center. Unfold the strip and, on one side of the fold, draw lines dividing the strip into 3"-square segments. On the other side of the fold line, first mark a 1½"-wide segment (half of the 3" measurement), and then mark 3"-square segments until you have another 1½" segment remaining at the end.

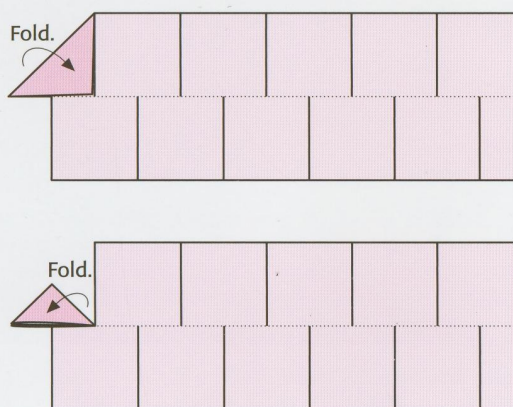


4. Using scissors, cut on the marked side lines. Cut off the 1½" segments. Do not cut through the center fold line.

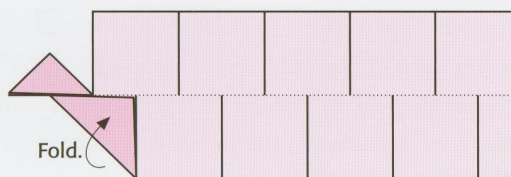




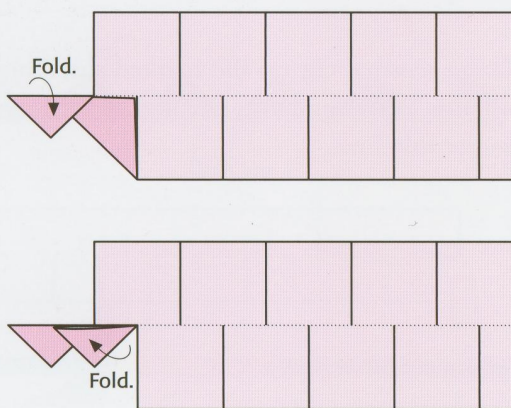
5. Working on an ironing board, start on one side of the strip and fold the first square in half diagonally, and then in half again, as shown, to form a prairie point. Press each square as you fold it.



6. Move to the other side of the center line and fold the next square once diagonally, starting with the edge near the last prairie point.



7. Flip the first prairie point over the folded square. Press the second diagonal fold in the second prairie point, overlapping the first one. Place a pin at the bottom edge of the point to hold it in place.



8. Continue folding and nesting the squares on the strip until the entire strip is folded. Machine baste  $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the edge of the strip to secure the points.



9. Attach the strips of prairie points to the edges of the quilt, aligning the straight edge of the prairie points with the raw edge of the quilt and overlapping segments as needed. Make sure that the prairie points meet at the corners (see page 61). To attach the strips, sew around all four edges of the quilt front using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. To finish sewing your quilt together, refer to "Attaching Special Finishes" on page 55.

## Adding Gathered Lace or Ruffles

For a feminine touch, you can add gathered lace or ruffles to the edge of a quilt. Look for lace that is pregathered rather than flat. Sometimes you can find premade fabric ruffles, too. But more than likely, you'll need to make your own ruffles if that's the look you want. Besides, that way, you can match the ruffles perfectly to your quilt fabrics. When you purchase pregathered trim, use the distance around the quilt, plus  $\frac{1}{4}$  yard. If you plan to make your own ruffles, see "Making Your Own Ruffles" on page 66.

1. Place the ruffles or gathered-lace trim, right sides together, on the quilt top, matching the cut edge of the quilt and the raw edge or binding edge of the trim.
2. Using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, sew just to the left of the gathering line or bound edge of the trim so that any gathering stitches will be captured in the seam allowance and won't show on the finished quilt. Leave the first 2" of trim free so that you'll have a "tail" for finishing later.



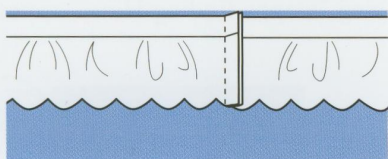
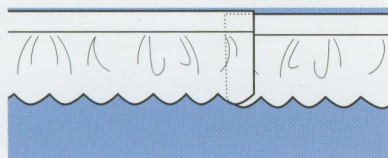


3. Sew along the first edge of the quilt, stopping 1" from the corner. For this last inch, as you approach the square corner, use a long straight pin to push the ruffle or lace under the presser foot, adding more fullness to the gathers.

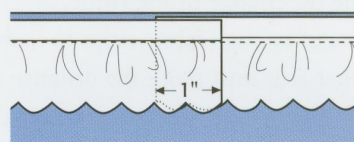
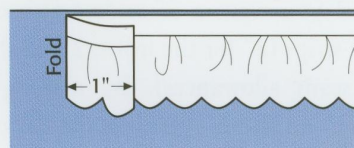
When you get to the corner, leave the needle in the fabric, lift the presser foot, and pivot to stitch the next side. Continue adding fullness to the gathers for another inch. This will give your ruffle enough fullness to "fan out" around the corner when it is turned right side out. Even if your corners are rounded off, it is still helpful to add some fullness as you sew the ruffle or lace around the curve.



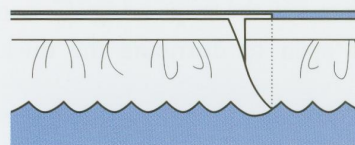
4. After you've stitched around the entire quilt and are approaching the starting point, you have a few options for finishing the ruffle or lace. To make a seam in the ruffle, cut the two ends so that they overlap  $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Place the two ends right sides together and sew a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Press the seam to one side and then finish sewing the ruffle or lace to the quilt.



5. For a quicker finish, you can fold the beginning tail back 1". Cut the ending tail so that it overlaps the first one by 1". Sew over these folds, and the completed ruffle or lace will show no raw edges on the right side. The fullness of the ruffles will hide the cut edges.



6. If your pregathered ruffle is doubled, you can conceal the cut edges by trimming the tails so that they overlap 2". Fold the raw edges of one tail  $\frac{1}{2}$ " to the inside and then slip the other tail inside the fold, too. This will provide a finished edge on the front and the back.



7. To finish sewing your quilt together, refer "Attaching Special Finishes" on page 55.







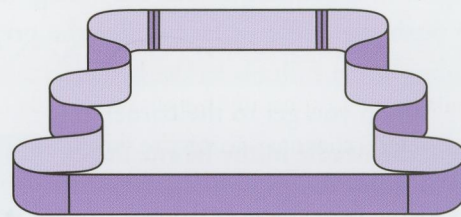
### *Making Your Own Ruffles*

For a perfect match, make your own ruffles to coordinate with the fabrics and colors in your quilt. Fabric ruffles can be cut on the bias or straight grain of the fabric. Cut the fabric strips twice the width of the finished ruffle, plus two seam allowances. For example, if you want a 2"-wide finished ruffle, cut 4½"-wide strips (2" for the front, 2" for the back, and two ¼" seam allowances). By making a doubled ruffle, it will be just as pretty on the back of the quilt as it is on the front. Plus, you won't have to sew a long hem on the outer edge of the ruffle.

You'll need enough fabric strips to make a continuous strip that is at least twice the distance around your quilt. As an example, a 36"-square baby quilt measures 4 yards around the perimeter. To make a nice, full ruffle for that quilt, you need to cut 8 yards of fabric strips. That's not 8 yards of fabric, but strips that will be 8 yards long when sewn together end to end.

1. Stitch the fabric strips together to make one long strip. Unlike joining binding strips, it's best to sew a perpendicular seam across the end of the strips, as shown, rather than diagonally. With right sides together, sew the strips using ¼" seams. Press the seams open to distribute the thickness of the

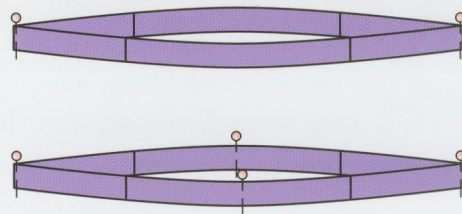
seam. When all strips are sewn together, join the two ends to make a continuous loop.



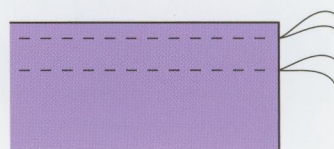
2. Fold the ruffle in half, wrong sides together, so that the cut edges are aligned. Press the fold with a steam iron to help the layers stay together.



3. Fold the length, to divide it in half, and mark these points with pins. Fold each section in half again to divide the strip into quarters, and mark these points with pins. These marks will be used to position the ruffle evenly on the quilt.



4. To gather the ruffle, sew two parallel lines of machine basting stitches ⅛" and ⅜" from the cut edges of the ruffle. Gather the ruffle by pulling the bobbin threads—and praying that they don't break! Gather each quarter of the ruffle separately to prevent breaking the threads. (See the accompanying "Happy Ending Hint," opposite.)

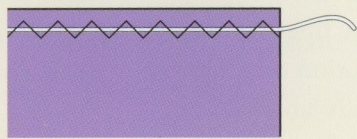




### *Happy Ending Hint*

Here's a great way to gather ruffles—and you don't have to worry about your bobbin thread breaking. It's especially helpful for yards of ruffles, where the chance of breaking a thread is pretty high.

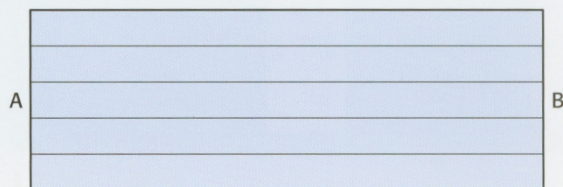
Set your sewing machine for the longest, widest zigzag stitch it will make. Lay a piece of pearl cotton, crochet cotton, or even dental floss  $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the cut edges of the ruffle. Zigzag over this thread, being careful not to stitch into it. When you are finished, this thread can be pulled easily to gather the ruffle. Just be sure to anchor one end of the thread so that you don't accidentally pull it out from under the zigzag stitches.



5. Gather the ruffle to fit the edge of your quilt. The four pins placed along the ruffle can be matched to the centers of the quilt sides. For a large quilt, you can divide the ruffle length again to make it easier to handle. Distribute the fullness evenly along the edge, but add extra gathers for 1" on each side of the corners to allow the ruffle to lie flat when it is turned out (see page 65, step 3).
6. Sew the ruffle to the edges of the quilt top with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. To finish sewing your quilt together, refer to "Attaching Special Finishes" on page 55.

### *Cutting Continuous Binding*

Some quilters like the continuous binding method, which allows you to start with a large piece of fabric, sew one or two seams, and then do the cutting. The result is one long (continuous) piece of binding. It eliminates the process of sewing many separate strips together. You can use this method for both straight-grain and bias binding.



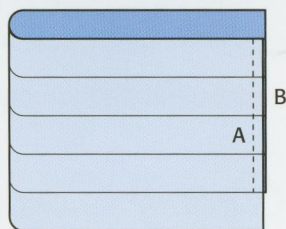
### *Continuous Straight-Grain Binding*

For this method, you sew only one seam, and then cut one long, continuous binding strip. It takes time to mark the cutting lines, but if you don't like sewing many individual strips together, this method may be for you. Because this binding is cut on the straight grain of the fabric, it should be used only to bind quilts with straight edges and square corners.

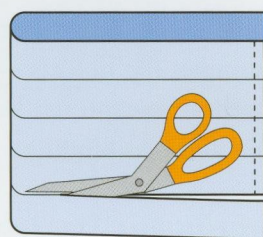
1. Using one of the charts on page 32, determine the rectangle or square size that will yield enough binding for your project.
2. Lay your fabric on a flat surface, and trim off any selvages. Mark lines 2" apart, parallel to one long edge. If the fabric beyond the last line measures less than 2" wide, trim it off. (You shouldn't have to trim if the measurement of the fabric can be divided by your binding width).



- Place side A and side B right sides together. Shift side A so that the top cut edge of side A matches up with the first line marked on side B. At the other end of the seam, the lower cut edge of side B should match the last line on side A. Pin in place and then sew a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. It's good to use a smaller-than-normal stitch length (about 12 to 15 stitches per inch) since you'll be cutting through the seam. Press the seam open.



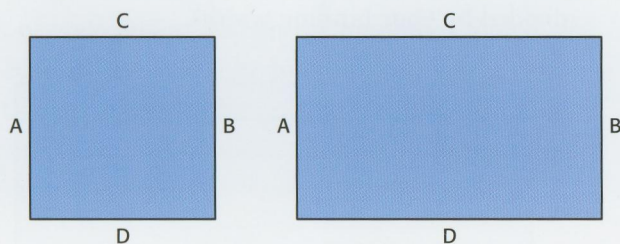
- Using sharp scissors, start at one uneven end and cut along the marked line. When you get to the seam, you will have moved up one line and can continue to cut one piece of binding long enough to bind your quilt.



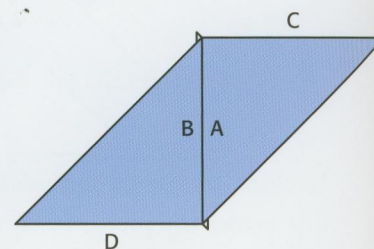
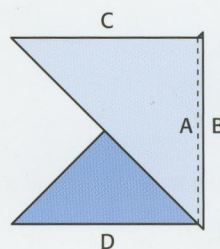
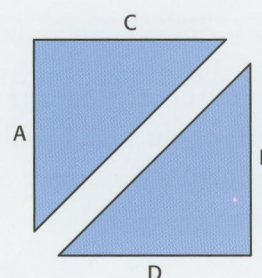
### Continuous Bias Binding

This method is similar to the continuous straight-grain binding in that you mark and sew first, and then cut one long piece of continuous binding. In this case, the binding is cut on the bias, making it suitable for any finishing situation, including curved or scalloped edges as well as rounded or mitered corners.

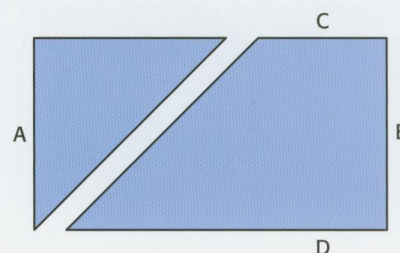
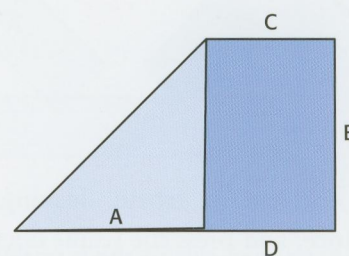
- Using one of the charts on page 32, determine the square or rectangle size that will yield enough binding for your project.
- Lay your fabric on a flat surface, right side up, and label the sides A, B, C, and D as shown. Use a water-soluble pen or write on masking tape.



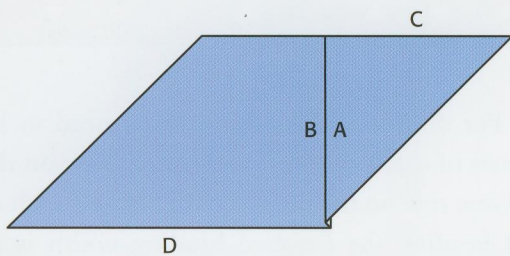
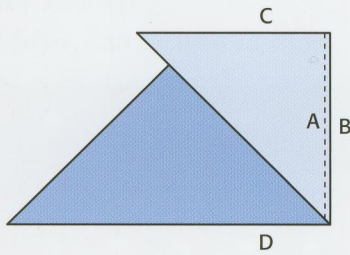
- If you are using a square, fold the square in half diagonally and press lightly. Cut along this fold to create two triangles. Place sides A and B right sides together as shown so that the points where the triangles intersect are  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the cut edges. Sew the triangles together using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance and a stitch length of 12 to 15 stitches per inch. Press the seam open.



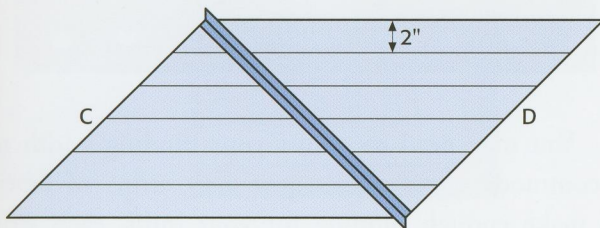
If you are using a rectangle, fold side A down to match side D. Press this diagonal fold lightly and cut along the fold line to create the bias edges.



4. Place sides A and B right sides together and sew a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam, using 12 to 15 stitches per inch. Press the seam open and place the fabric on a flat surface.

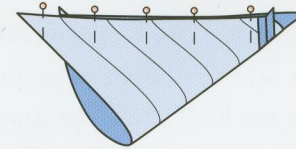
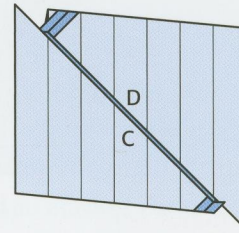


5. Whether you started with a square or a rectangle, you now have a parallelogram. For either piece, start on one unmarked side and draw a parallel line 2" (the binding width) from the bias edge. Continue drawing parallel lines 2" apart across the whole piece of fabric. Be careful not to stretch your fabric as you draw the lines. Trim off the fabric at the end if it is less than 2".

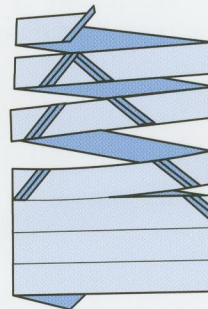


6. Bring sides C and D right sides together to create a tube of fabric. Shift one edge of C so that it matches the first line marked on D. At the other end, the end of D will match the last line on C. Pin the edges together and then stitch a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. It may seem a little awkward because the fabric

will not lie flat. Don't worry; that means you've aligned it correctly! Press the seam open.



7. Using scissors and beginning at one uneven end, start cutting along the marked line. When you get to the seam, you will have moved down one line and can continue to cut enough binding for your quilt.



Cut along lines to form a continuous strip.



### *Happy Ending Hint*

When making continuous binding for a large quilt, place the binding tube over your ironing board. Keep turning the tube of fabric as you cut the binding.



# Finishing Edges without Binding

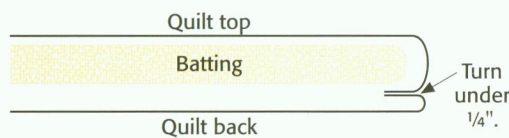
*Some quilts are finished without binding. Simply sew the front and back of the quilt together by hand or machine to encase the batting and all raw edges of the fabric. Use this fast-and-easy technique when you do not want a row of binding on the edge of your quilt or when you do not have binding fabric to match your quilt.*

*This method is often used to finish comforters or quilts that will be tied or scantily quilted. A row of hand or machine quilting near the edge can give the illusion of binding. This edge treatment is called an "envelope edge."*

## Finishing by Hand

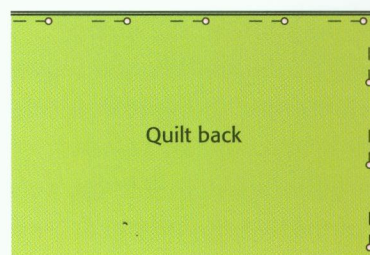
If the quilting is already completed on your quilt, sew the front and back of the quilt together by hand. It is important, however, that no quilting stitches are within  $\frac{1}{2}$ " of the quilt edges to allow space to turn under the edges.

1. Trim the back of the quilt so that the cut edges of both the quilt top and backing are  $\frac{1}{4}$ " larger than the finished size of the quilt. Carefully trim the batting  $\frac{1}{8}$ " smaller than the finished size of the quilt. Fold the front of the quilt over the batting, turning under the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam.

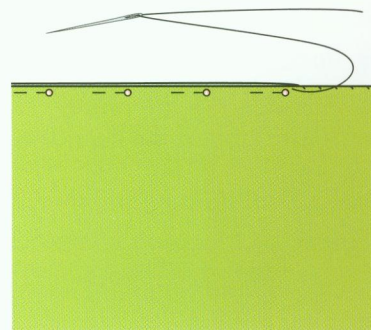


Cross-Section View

2. Turn the back of the quilt under  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and pin the folded edge to match the front of the quilt.



3. Stitch the front and back folded edges together using a slip stitch.



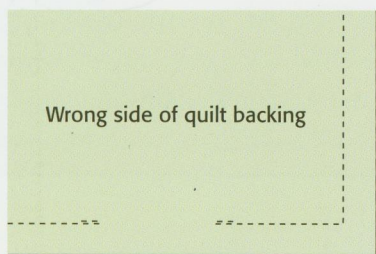
## Finishing by Machine

If you want to finish your unbound quilt by machine, you'll need to sew the edges together before you quilt your project. This method works best when you are planning to tie the quilt or quilt it sparingly. It is difficult to quilt a large area closely after the edges have been stitched because the layers can shift. This is a good method to use for a child's fluffy quilt or a comforter.

1. Place the quilt top and backing right sides together. Pin the edges. If necessary, trim the back even with the front.



2. Sew a  $\frac{1}{4}$ "-wide seam around the four sides of the quilt, leaving an opening on one side. The opening should not be near the corner. Backstitch at the starting and stopping points to secure the stitching so that it won't come undone when you turn the quilt right side out.



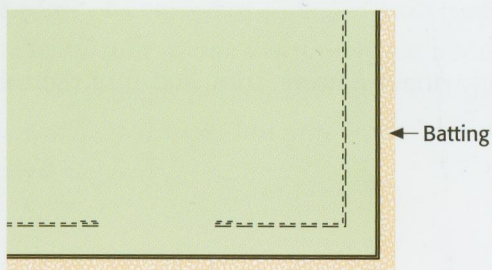
Quilt Top and Backing,  
Right Sides Together

### Happy Ending Hint

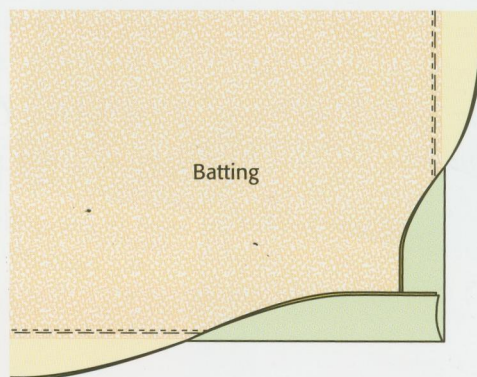
For a small quilt, the opening should be 6" to 10"; for a large quilt, the opening may need to be as large as 20".

3. Smooth out the batting on a flat surface and lay the inside-out quilt on top of it. Make sure the quilt top, not the backing fabric, is facing the batting. Pin the quilt to the batting. Pin around all edges of the quilt and batting, letting the batting extend beyond the quilt. The batting will be trimmed later.

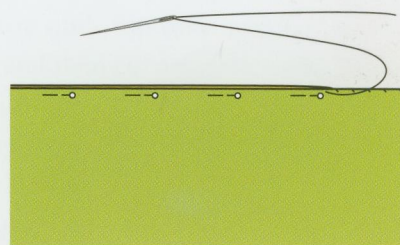
Using a basting stitch, sew the quilt to the batting, batting side down. Follow the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance on the back and leave the same opening as before. Because of the thickness, it's a good idea to use your walking foot or even-feed foot for this step.



4. Trim the batting close to the stitching, making sure you do not cut the quilt top or backing fabric. Then to turn the quilt right side out, reach through the opening between the front and back of the quilt. Pull the corners through the opening, one at a time, to turn the quilt right side out. As you turn each corner, fold the two seam allowances over the batting before you pull it out, which will create pointed corners when it is turned right side out.



5. At the opening, fold the front seam allowance over the batting. Turn the quilt backing under  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and pin it to the quilt top. Stitch the opening together using the slip stitch. Or, if you prefer to do the entire process by machine, you can stitch very close to the edge using the straight stitch on your machine.



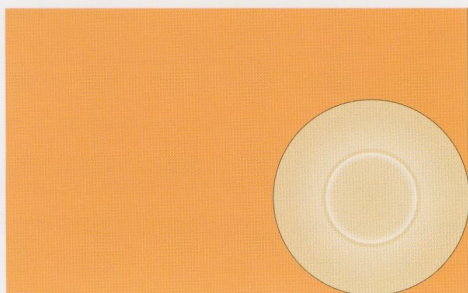
6. Before quilting or tying your project, it's important to straighten it out. A small quilt can be straightened on a tabletop, but a large quilt may require a large floor area and the help of a friend. Tug on opposite sides of the quilt to straighten the three layers of the quilt so that the front, back, and batting lie smoothly. Baste or pin the three layers together before quilting or tying.



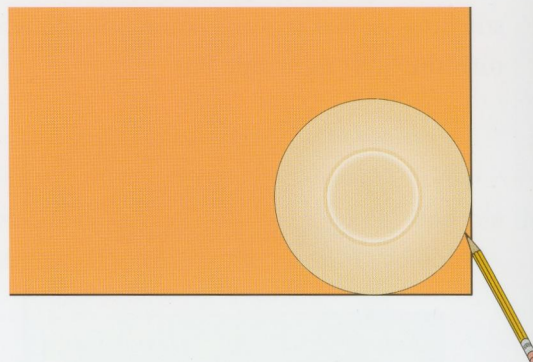
## Finishing Rounded Corners

Before sewing the front and back together, you can soften the look of the corners on your quilt or comforter by rounding off the square corners. Rounding off the corners works well if your quilt has wide borders or wide areas of background fabric in the corners of the design. However, if the quilt has a definite square pattern in the corners, it will look better if you keep the corners square.

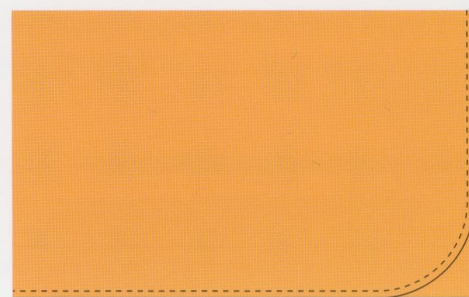
1. Mark the rounded corners using a round dish. Use a cup for a slightly rounded corner, a saucer for a midsize rounded curve, or a dinner plate for a large rounded corner. Position the plate in one corner on the wrong side of the quilt top. The circle should touch adjacent sides of the quilt.



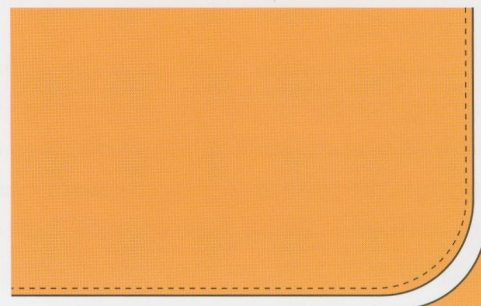
2. Use a pencil to draw along the curve from side to side, creating a perfectly rounded corner. Repeat on all four corners of the quilt top.



3. Using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, sew the front and back of the quilt together as in "Finishing by Machine" on page 20, being careful not to stretch your fabric as you sew around the curves.



4. Trim the rounded corners of your quilt  $\frac{1}{4}$ " outside the seam.



5. Attach batting, trim, and turn right side out.





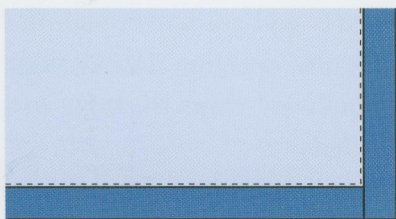
## Making an Imitation Binding

After you have stitched the front and the back of the quilt together and have turned it right side out, you can create the look of binding along the edge.

Sew a row of hand or machine quilting  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the edge of the quilt to give the illusion of binding. The stitching also flattens the puffy edge. This effect looks especially nice when the backing fabric is the same as the border fabric on the front—it completes the illusion of an actual applied binding.



To give the appearance of wide binding, stitch a 1"- to 2"-wide border on your quilt before you finish the edges. Sew the front and the back of the quilt together by hand or machine, and then quilt in the ditch along the border seam. This last border will appear to be wide binding.

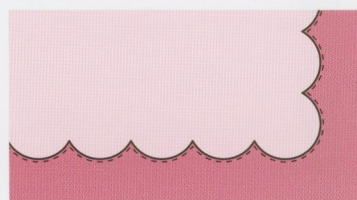


## Appliquing the Edges to a Border

To create a very unusual finishing touch, you can appliqué the edges of a curved or scalloped quilt (such as a Wedding Ring quilt or one that simply has a scalloped border) to a straight border. Your quilt will still have that nice scalloped look, but you won't have to bind the curved edges.



1. Appliqué the curved edges to straight strips of fabric. For a smaller quilt, you could even appliqué the entire quilt top onto a square or rectangle of fabric, and then cut away the excess fabric beneath the quilt top.
2. Sew the front and the back of the quilt together along the straight edges. Attach batting, trim, and turn right side out.
3. Quilt in the ditch along the appliqué curves for a very special quilt finish.





# Finishing Edges with Backing

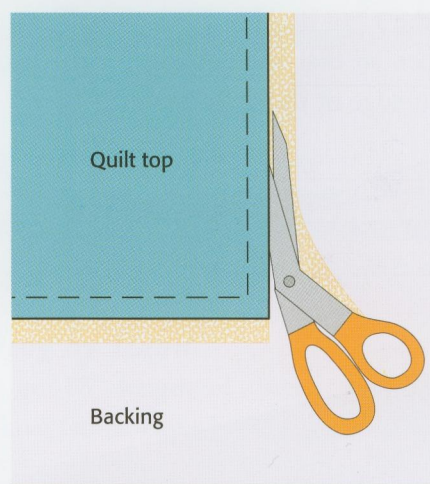
*Some quilts appear to have binding along the edges but are actually finished by folding the backing fabric to the front, over the batting and quilt top. You can quickly and easily complete a project using this technique.*

Finishing your quilt with backing requires that you cut the backing larger than the quilt top. Because most quilters prepare their quilts with the backing already cut longer and wider than the quilt top, you don't need to plan on additional fabric. With this method, the corners can be quickly overlapped or mitered for a finer appearance. In addition to being easy, this technique is an economical way to finish your quilt. You should be aware that edges finished this way, however, are generally not as durable as ones finished with double-fold binding. This method can put more wear and tear on the backing fabric.

That said, using the excess backing fabric to finish the edges is a great method to use if you do not have enough fabric to make binding, as long as your backing fabric coordinates with the quilt design. If not, you may want to reverse the process, turning the quilt-top fabric to the back of the quilt to create the finished edge.

## Preparing Your Quilt

1. After quilting your project, lay the quilt on a flat surface and baste around the edges,  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the cut edge of the quilt top. Be sure to stitch through the quilt top, batting, and backing. You can do this by hand or by using a long machine stitch and the walking foot on your machine. This step will keep the layers from shifting as you finish the edges.
2. Use scissors to trim the batting even with the edge of the quilt top, making sure you do *not* cut through the back of the quilt.

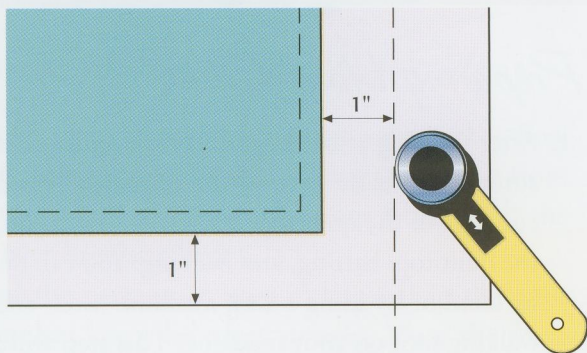


## Happy Ending Hint

Think about the use of your quilt when you are considering finishing the edges with the backing. It's great for wall quilts but probably not durable enough for baby quilts or other quilts that will be washed often.

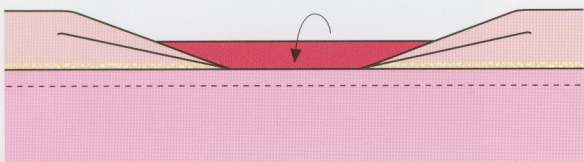


3. For  $\frac{1}{2}$ "-wide "binding," you will need 1" of backing fabric extending beyond the edge of the quilt top. Use a rotary ruler to measure 1" of extra fabric around the edges of the quilt top, and trim off the excess fabric with a rotary cutter. If you want "binding" wider than  $\frac{1}{2}$ ", cut the extending fabric two times the desired finished width.

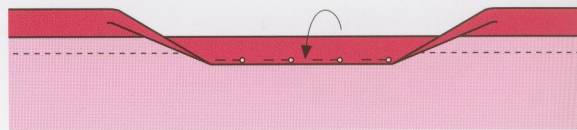


## *Finishing with Overlapped Corners*

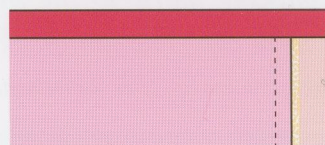
1. Fold the 1" of backing fabric in half, wrong sides together, so that the cut edge of the back meets the cut edge of the quilt top.



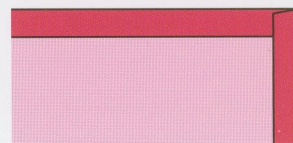
2. Fold the backing again along the edge of the quilt top to form the finished edge. This fold encases the batting and covers  $\frac{1}{2}$ " of the quilt top. Pin along the fold to hold the finished edge in place.



3. To finish the corners, extend the fold to the corner.



4. Fold the adjacent side, overlapping the first side at the corners. Pin and then stitch in place.



## *Happy Ending Hint*

Although overlapping the corners is fast and easy, the corners can be bulky and threads of fabric sometimes sneak out of the corner folds. Fold the corners carefully and tuck the raw edges in. Sew the edges closed by hand.

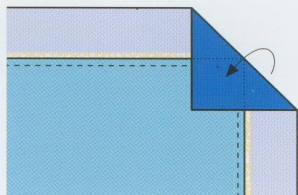




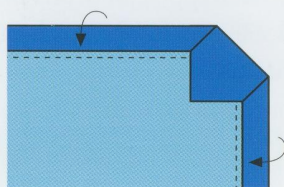
## Finishing with Mitered Corners

To improve the appearance of the corners, you can fold a miter. Mitering only takes a few minutes longer, and remember, there are *only* four corners on your quilt! In this method, the corners are folded first, and then the sides.

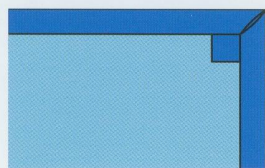
1. Fold the corner of the backing over the corner point of the quilt top so that the fold touches the point. Make sure you fold the backing squarely over the edge of the quilt.



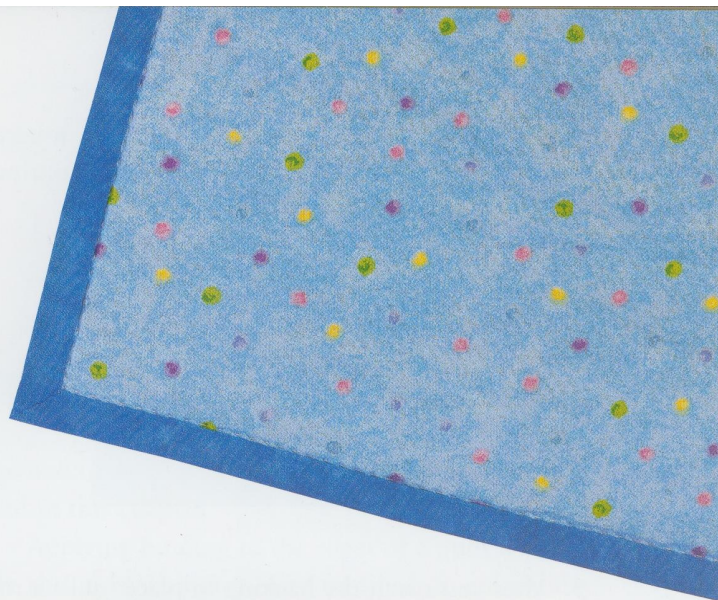
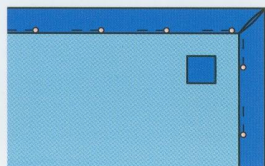
2. Fold the 1" of backing fabric in half, wrong sides together, so that the cut edge of the backing just meets the cut edge of the quilt top.



3. Fold the backing once more to create the "binding," and a miter will form at the corner.



4. Carefully trim the small square that extends onto the quilt. Pin the folds securely and then stitch in place.



### Happy Ending Hint

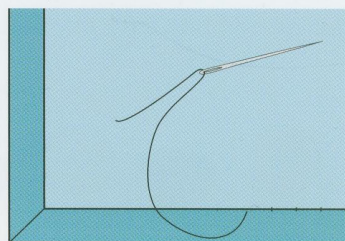
If you get a blunt corner on your finished quilt, try this: Relax! Then, when folding the corner, don't fold the backing fabric tight against the corner of the quilt. Fold it  $\frac{1}{8}$ " outside the point and you'll be able to make a nice, pointed binding corner.

## Stitching the Edges

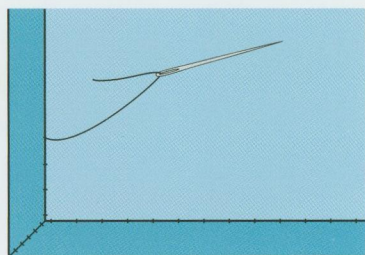
Once your backing edges are folded and pinned, you can stitch them in place by hand or machine.

### Finishing by Hand

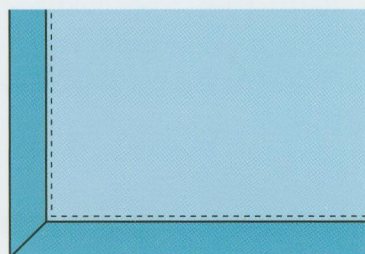
1. Use an 18" length of thread that matches the backing fabric. Use a blind stitch or a slip stitch to sew the folded edge to the front of the quilt. The stitches should not go all the way through to the back of the quilt.



2. At each mitered corner, sew along the mitered fold with four or five stitches, and then continue to sew the next side of the quilt.

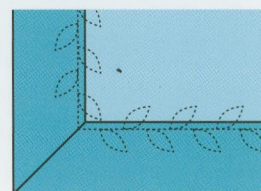
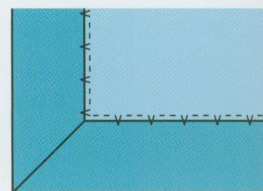
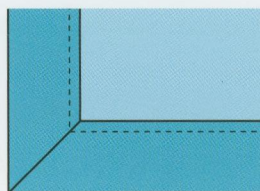


3. After you stitch the backing in place, quilt a row of stitches next to the binding, sewing through all three layers of your quilt to secure the edges and give the illusion of binding on the back of the quilt. Remove any basting stitches.

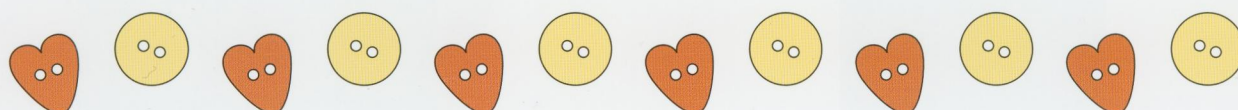
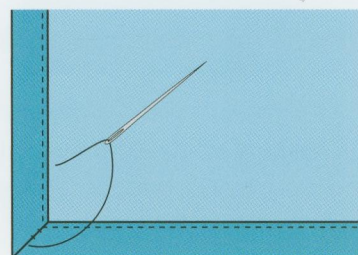


### *Finishing by Machine*

1. To finish the edges by machine, simply sew around the edges of the backing fabric close to the pinned fold. You can use a straight stitch, a machine blind stitch, or a decorative stitch to finish the edges. This stitching sews through all layers of the quilt, so it isn't necessary to add a row of quilting stitches.



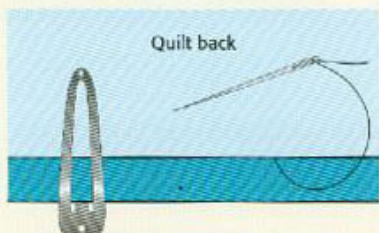
2. Close the overlapped or mitered corners with a few small blind stitches, and then remove any basting stitches.





### *Happy Ending Hint*

As you finish your quilt, don't pin the binding around the entire quilt. All you need is four or five straight pins or binding clips. Pin or clip just a few inches at a time as you sew by hand. Before long, those pins will travel around the whole quilt. As a bonus, the quilt will not stick you if you curl up in it to complete your last stitches.



### *Machine Stitches*

When you are constructing your quilt, sewing the front and back together, or applying binding or special finishings, set the stitch length on your machine to 10 to 12 stitches per inch. This stitch length is very secure, but it's also just the right size for your seam ripper (just in case you need to use it).

### *Machine Piecing*

When sewing binding strips together to make a long strip, or making continuous binding, set the stitch length on your machine to a shorter 12 to 15 stitches per inch. These small stitches will hold the pieces together without backstitching, especially as you cut continuous binding strips apart.

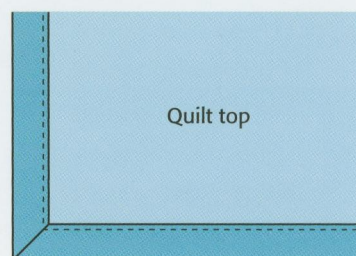
### *Machine Basting*

Use a machine basting stitch with a length of six stitches per inch when you are basting quilt layers together, preparing a string of prairie points, gathering ruffles, or making covered cording. These longer stitches hold fabric together but are easy to remove if necessary.

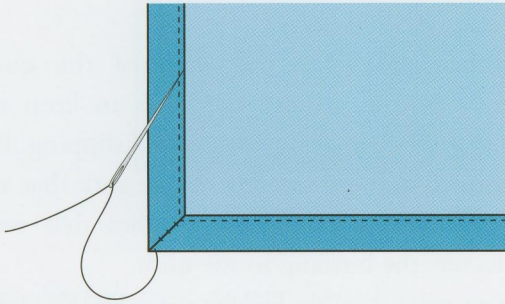
### *Machine-Finished Binding*

It's possible to apply the binding on your quilt entirely by using the sewing machine.

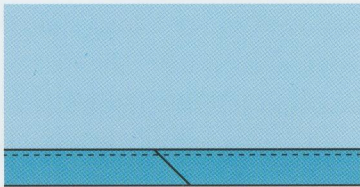
1. To apply single-fold or double-fold binding, sew the binding to the back of the quilt rather than to the front. When the binding is turned to the front of the quilt, the finishing machine stitches will be on the front.
2. Turn the binding to the front of the quilt. Carefully pin all around the quilt to keep the binding in place and prevent it from slipping. Pin the mitered corners securely. Make sure that the binding covers the machine stitches that were used to sew the binding to the quilt.
3. Machine stitch the binding to the quilt along the fold at the inner edge of the binding. You will be sewing through the binding fold, the three layers of the quilt, and the binding on the back of the quilt. This may be very bulky, but it can be controlled. You may need to use a long straight pin to adjust the fold as it goes under the machine presser foot. The machine stitches produce a nice edge to the binding on the front of the quilt, but it's difficult to control the position of the stitches on the back of the quilt. This may not be the method to use on your heirloom or prizewinning quilt, but it is a quick way to finish the binding.



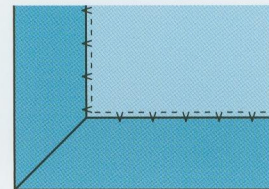
4. If your quilt has mitered corners, it is best to ignore the miters as you sew around the binding by machine. Turn the corner when you get to the inside miter corner and continue stitching. The miter will survive if you just leave it folded, but you can close the miter using hand blind stitches.



5. As you stitch around the quilt, continue sewing over the point where the binding starts and ends.



6. As you finish sewing the binding with your sewing machine, overlap your beginning stitches for 2" and backstitch.
7. An invisible machine blind stitch can be used to finish your binding. Set the stitch so that the straight stitches are placed on the quilt top and the zigzag stitches just catch the edge of the binding.



8. Use decorative machine stitches to add a special finish to your binding if desired.

